

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Applicants cancelled claims 2 and 4; amended claims 1, 3, 8, 12, 17 and 18; and added new claims 21 and 22. Claims 1, 3 and 5-22 remain. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13 and 15-20 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,162,011 to Gerhardt *et al.* ("Gerhardt"). With respect to claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 17, independent claims 1 and 17 now recite, *inter alia*, that the airflow travels "around" the object placed between the inlet and the tarmac. Gerhardt fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The element (6) of Gerhardt is "air permeable" (col. 4, l. 53) so that air travels "through" (col. 4, l. 53) the element. None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification.

With respect to claims 8, 9, 11 and 18, independent claims 8 and 18 now recites, *inter alia*, that the airflow travels "along" a surface of the object (claim 8) or an inclined surface of the suppressor (claim 18). Gerhardt fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. Again, air travels "through" (col. 4, l. 53) the permeable element (6) of Gerhardt. None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification.

With respect to claims 12, 13, 15 and 16, independent claim 12 now recites, *inter alia*, that the object "turns" airflow near the tarmac towards the engine. Gerhardt fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. Again, Gerhardt merely allows the air to travel "through" (col. 4, l. 53) the permeable element (6). None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected dependent claims 5, 10 and 14 as being unpatentable over Gerhardt in view of United States Patent Number 5,591,904 to Schafhaupt *et al.* (Schafhaupt). As discussed above, independent claims 1, 8 and 12 now define inventions that are patentable over the cited references. For at least this reason, dependent claims 5, 10 and 14 must likewise define inventions that are patentable over the cited references. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Other Claim Amendments

In light of the modifications to claim 1, Applicants cancelled claims 2 and 4 as being redundant. Due to the cancellation of claim 2, Applicants modified claim 3 to depend from pending claim 1.

Newly Added Claims

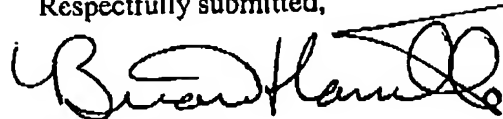
Applicants added new claims 21 and 22. Applicants did not introduce new matter. Support for the newly added claim 21 appears, for example, in paragraph 46 of the specification and Figure 7. Support for newly added claim 22 appears, for example, in paragraph 47 of the specification. The newly added claims define inventions that are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Applicants solicit the allowance of claims 1, 3 and 5-22 at an early date.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the \$84 fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b) for the presentation of an excess independent claim along with any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account Number 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,



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